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Claim 1 (*Twice Amended*) A device for releasably connecting at least one optical fibre to an optical apparatus where said optical apparatus comprises at least one photo-element mounted on a supporting element, said device including means for releasably connecting said at least one optical fibre to said at least one photo-element, wherein at least a part of said device is made from a transparent material making a region of coupling between the at least one optical fibre and the at least one photo-element externally visible.

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Claim 5 (*Twice Amended*) Device for connecting at least one optical fibre to an optical apparatus, said optical apparatus comprising at least one photo-element, said at least one optical fibre connectable to said at least one photo-element, and at least one supporting element provided with at least one guide hole for said at least one optical fibre, wherein said device comprises

a slide provided with at least one slot, said slide moveable between a first and a second predetermined position, said second position being defined by stops, said slot, in said first position of said slide, being coaxial with said hole of said supporting element and freely housing said at least one optical fibre, and said slot, in said second position of said slide, being out of alignment with said hole and exerting on said at least one optical fibre a force which keeps the at least one optical fibre secured in said hole.

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Claim 8 (*Twice Amended*) Securing device according to claim 5, wherein said device comprises a cover provided with at least one hole for the passage of said optical fibre, said cover being provided with an enclosure supporting said slide for slidable

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movement, and housing an elastic means in engagement with said slide to keep said slide in said second position.

Claim 9 (~~Twice Amended~~) Securing device according to claim 5, wherein said slot comprises a semi-circular portion having a radius greater than a radius of said at least one optical fibre.

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Claim 18. (~~Amended~~) Device for releasably connecting at least one optical fibre to an optical apparatus, said optical apparatus comprising at least one photo-element mounted on a transparent supporting element, said device including means for releasably connecting said at least one optical fibre to said at least one photo-element, wherein said connecting device includes a cover made of a transparent material making a region of coupling between said at least one optical fibre and the photo-element externally visible.

Claim 19. (~~Amended~~) Device for connecting at least two optical fibres to an optical apparatus, said optical apparatus comprising at least two photo-elements, said at least two optical fibres connectable to said at least two photo-elements, and at least one supporting element provided with at least two guide holes for said at least two optical fibres, wherein said device comprises:

a slide provided with at least two slots, said slide moveable between a first predetermined position and a second predetermined position, said second position being defined by stops, said slot, in said first position of said slide, being coaxial with the said at least two guide holes of said supporting element and freely housing said at least two optical fibres, and said slots, in said second position of said slide, being out of alignment

with said holes and exerting on said optical fibres a force which keeps the optical fibres secured in said hole;

a spring for biasing said slide towards said second position; and

a cover provided with at least two holes for the passage of said at least two optical fibres, said cover slidably supporting said slide.

22. (New) Connecting device according to claim 5, wherein said at least one photo-element is mounted on said supporting element.

23. (New) Optical equipment comprising:

an optical apparatus comprising at least one photo-element,

at least one optical fiber, and

a device for releasably connecting said at least one optical fibre to a respective one of said at least one photo-element,

wherein at least a part of said releasably connecting device is made from a transparent material in order to make a region of coupling between the at least one optical fibre and the at least one photo-element externally visible.

24. (New) Optical equipment according to claim 23, wherein said transparent material is selected from the group comprising glass, polycarbonate (PC), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), polystyrene (PS), acrylonitrile-styrene (SAN), acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS), polyphenylene oxide (PPO), polyurethane (PUR),

polysulphone (PSU), polyamide (PA), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and polyphenylene sulphide (PPS).

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25. (New) Optical equipment according to claim 23, wherein said optical apparatus comprises a supporting element for said at least one photo-element, said supporting element being made from transparent material.

26. (New) Optical equipment comprising:  
at least one optical fiber,  
an optical apparatus comprising at least one photo-element, and a supporting element provided with at least one guide hole for a respective one of said at least one optical fibre, and  
a device for connecting said at least one optical fibre to a respective one of said at least one photo-element,  
wherein said connecting device comprises a slide provided with at least one slot, said slide being movable between a first and a second predetermined position, said second predetermined position being defined by stops, said at least one slot, in said first position of said slide, being coaxial with said at least one hole of said supporting element and freely housing said at least one optical fibre, and said at least one slot, in said second position of said slide, being out of alignment with said at least one hole and exerting on said at least one optical fibre a force which keeps said at least one optical fibre secured in said at least one hole.

27. (New) Optical equipment according to claim 26, wherein said slide is made from transparent material.

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28. (New) Optical equipment according to claim 26, wherein said connecting device further comprises a cover, said cover is provided with at least one hole for the passage of said at least one optical fibre and with an enclosure, said enclosure supporting said slide for slidable movement and housing elastic means to maintain said slide in said second position.

29. (New) Optical equipment according to claim 28, wherein said cover is made from a transparent material.--

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